

Message Text

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46

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 PM-09 NSC-10

SS-15 RSC-01 L-03 H-02 IO-12 DPW-01 NSAE-00 INR-10

PRS-01 PA-03 AID-20 RSR-01 /103 W
----- 123833

O R 201130 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3710

DIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE

CIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMCONSUL UDORN

USDEL JEC PARIS

USIA WASHDC

SECDEF

USDAO SAIGON

DIRNSA FT GG MEADE MD

CINCPAC

CINCUSARPAC HAWAII

COMUSMACTHAI

DEPCHJUSMAGTHAI

CDR USSAG NKP

CDR 13 AF ADVON UDORN

DODSPECREP BANGKOK

DODSPECREP NKP

CHSPECACTS BANGKOK

7 ACCS KORAT

56 SOW NKP

432 TRW UDORN

CDR JCRC NKP

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8 TFW UBON
ARMA/ AIRA VTN LAOS
ARMA/ AIRA SVKT LAOS

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENTIANE 3060

CINCPAC FOR POLAD; 13 AF ADVON, 432 TRW, 56 SOW AND 8 TFW
FOR DO/ DI; MACTHAI FOR J2 AND PAO

E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MOPS, PINS, PINT, PFOR, LA
SUBJECT: LAO SITUATION REPORT - APRIL 20

REF: VIENTIANE 3028

BEGIN SUMMARY: MILITARY - GROUND ACTION INCREASED SLIGHTLY DURING PERIOD 18-19 APRIL, WITH TWO MAJOR ATTACKS REPORTED WELL EAST OF THAKHEK AND SOUTHEAST OF PAKSE. ELSEWHERE, THERE WERE THREE MINOR CLASHES. RLAF FLEW TWO AC-47 GUNSHIP SORTIES. POLITICAL - IN INTERVIEW, APRIL 20, PRIME MINISTER OBSERVED THAT RECENT USAF AIR STRIKES, REQUESTED BY RLG, WERE PURELY DEFENSIVE AND LIMITED TO MILITARY OBJECTIVES: GENERALIZED RESUMPTION OF WAR IS THEREFORE NOT TO BE FEARED. LPF REQUESTS FOR MAPS OF LAOS INDICATE THAT IT IS CONTINUING TO MAKE PREPARATIONS FOR EVENTUAL SERIOUS NEGOTIATIONS. FAR DEPUTY COMMANDER STATES THAT, WITH APPROVAL OF PRIME MINISTER, VIENTIANE CURFEW WILL BE LIFTED EVENING APRIL 20. END SUMMARY.

1. SECTION I - CEASEFIRE OBSERVANCE

A. MR I: ONLY GROUND ACTIONS WERE THREE MINOR CLASHES SOUTHEAST OF BAN HOUET SAI IN FAR NORTHWEST ON 17-18 APRIL (ONE FRIEND KIA BY MINE). RLAF FLEW NO SORTIES.

B. MR II: NO GROUND OR AIR ACTION REPORTED. PATROL EAST OF LONG TIENG FOUND CAVE CONTAINING LARGE ENEMY AMMO CACHE, INCLUDING ONE MORTAR, 600 ROCKET/ MORTAR ROUNDS, PLUS MODERATE AMOUNT SMALL ARMS AMMO, MINES AND GRENADES.

C. MR III: ONE MAJOR INCIDENT OCCURRED EARLY MORNING 19 APRIL (182230 Z), WHEN ENEMY FIRED APPROX 200 MORTAR ROUNDS
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AT COMPANY POSITION SOME 40 KM EAST/ SOUTHEAST OF THAKHEK,

VICINITY WE 180170. FRIENDS WITHDREW AND WERE AMBUSHED TWICE AT WE 176164 AND WE 148153 (CASUALTIES UNKNOWN). RLAF FLEW NO SORTIES.

D. MR IV: ONLY ACTION WAS MAJOR INCIDENT DURING NIGHT 18 APRIL (1500 Z) APPROX 37 KM SOUTHEAST OF PAKSE - ESTIMATED TWO ENEMY COMPANIES, SUPPORTED BY 70 ROUNDS MORTAR FIRE, ATTACKED COMPANY OPERATING NORTH OF PHIAFAY AT XB 048380 (INITIAL: 10 FRIENDS MIA). RLAF FLEW TWO AC-47 GUNSHIP SORTIES DURING NIGHT 18-19 APRIL, BITH IN SUPPORT OF FOREGOING ACTION.

3. E. MR V: NO GROUND OR AIR ACTION REPORTED.

F. COUNT OF CEASEFIRE VIOLATIONS: RLG DEFMIN ANNOUNCED TWO- DAY INCREASE OF SEVEN ENEMY CEASEFIRE VIOLATIONS, BRINGING TOTAL TO 410 AS OF MORNING 18 APRIL. (COMMENT: OUR COUNT OF GROUND CONTACTS INITIATED BY BOTH SIDES SHOWS 100 MAJOR AND 539 MINOR INCIDENTS THROUGH 17 APRIL. END COMMENT)

2. SECTION II - POLITICAL SITUATION

A. OFFICIAL LAO PRESSE, APRIL 20, REPORTED HIGHLIGHTS OF PRIME MINISTER' S INTERVIEW PREVIOUS DAY WITH AFP CORRESPONDENT CAZAUX. PRIMIN OBSERVED THAT RECENT USAF B-52 STRIKES, REQUESTED BY RLG, WERE PURELY DEFENSIVE AND LIMITED TO MILITARY OBJECTIVES IN THA VIANG AREA. PRIMIN STATED THAT GENERALIZED RESUMPTION OF WAR IS, THEREFORE, NOT TO BE FEARED, ADDING THAT SUCH RESUMPTION IS " ACT OF GENERAL POLICY WHICH WOULD NOT DEPEND ON LAOS ALONE." ON POLITICAL SIDE, PRIMIN SAID THAT POLITICAL TALKS WITH LPF CONTINUE, AND RLG WANTS TO SEE FORMATION OF NEW PGNU. PRIMIN ASSERTED THAT, JUDGING BY ITS DELAYING TACTICS, LPF IS DEPENDENT ON INTERESTS OF A INDOCHINA LIBERATION FRONT. HIGHLIGHTS OF INTERVIEW BROADCAST ON RADIO VIENTIANE.

B. RLG NEGOTIATOR NGNON SANANIKONE TOLD US THAT HIS LPF COUNTERPART, PHOUN SIPRASEUTH, HAD RECENTLY ASKED HIM FOR COPIES OF LARGE- SCALE U. S. MAPS OF LAOS, WHICH RLG GEOGRAPHIC SERVICE SUBSEQUENTLY CONFIDENTIAL

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PROVIDED. INCIDENT SUGGESTS THAT, DESPITE CURRENT IMPASSE IN TALKS, LPF IS CONTINUING TO MAKE PREPARATIONS FOR EVENTUAL SERIOUS NEGOTIATIONS.

C. FAR DEPUTY COMMANDER GENERAL KOU PRASITH TOLD EMBOFF

THAT CURFEW, WHICH HAS LONG BEEN IN EFFECT IN VIENTIANE,
WILL BE LIFTED, WITH APPROVAL OF PRIME MINISTER, TONIGHT.
PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT EXPECTED SOON. KOU PRASITH
SAID MOVE WAS DESIGNED TO PROMOTE RELAXED ATMOSPHERE IN
SPIRIT OF CEASEFIRE. GODLEY

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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To: BANGKOK
CIA WASHDC
DIA WASHDC
EA
JAKARTA
MOSCOW
PARIS

PHNOM PENH
SECSTATE WASHDC

Type: TE

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